

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 2, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks and have canceled claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-14, 18-31 and 41-44 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 42-44 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute at least some of the original claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Accordingly, claims 1-14, 18-31 and 41 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 18 and 41 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 42-44 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-14 and 42

Claim 42 was objected to, but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1 from which claim 42 originally depended (e.g., see the paragraph 2 of the Office Action). Rather, than rewrite claim 42 to include all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 42 and then canceled claim 42. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 2-14 depend from and further limit claim 1, claims 2-14 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 18-31 and 43

Claim 43 was objected to, but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 18 from which claim 43 originally depended (e.g., see the paragraph 2 of the Office Action). Rather, than

rewrite claim 43 to include all of the limitations of claim 18, Applicants have rewritten claim 18 to include all of the limitations of claim 43 and then canceled claim 43. Accordingly, claim 18 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 19-31 depend from and further limit claim 18, claims 19-31 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons.

Claims 41 and 44

Claim 44 was objected to, but deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 41 from which claim 44 originally depended (e.g., see the paragraph 2 of the Office Action). Rather, than rewrite claim 44 to include all of the limitations of claim 41, Applicants have rewritten claim 41 to include all of the limitations of claim 44 and then canceled claim 44. Accordingly, claim 41 is now in allowable condition.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

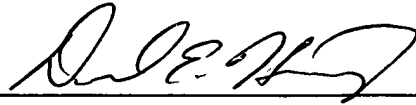
If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

U.S. Application No.: 09/877,810

Attorney Docket No.: EMC02-25(01087)

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Huang", is written over a horizontal line.

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